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March 27, 2020

VIA ECF

The Honorable Nelson S. Román
United States District Court Judge
Southern District of New York
300 Quarropas Street
White Plains, New York 10601

**Re: *United States v. Chukwuemeka Okparaeké,*
 17 Cr. 225 (NSR)**

Dear Judge Román:

We have been assigned as legal advisors to Chukwuemeka Okparaeké in the above-referenced matter. A pre-trial conference is currently scheduled for April 3, 2020. I spoke to Mr. Okparaeké on Thursday, March 19, 2020, and when the Court's emergency rules went into effect, I contacted the MDC to set up another call with Mr. Okparaeké concerning the April 3 conference. I received confirmation that my email request was forwarded to the appropriate unit; however, I have not received a phone call from Mr. Okparaeké. I contacted the MDC again on Thursday morning but still have not received a call from the defendant. As the Court is aware, the MDC has suspended all legal visits for 30 days, effective March 13, 2020. As a result, I cannot represent whether Mr. Okparaeké is willing to appear by telephone as opposed to in person for the conference. The Government has requested to appear by telephone. At this time, we are unaware of the defendant's view concerning the government's telephonic appearance because I have been unable to speak with the defendant. If Mr. Okparaeké wants to appear in person, as advisory counsel we will do so as well.

The Court's time and attention to this matter are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Margaret M. Shalley

cc: AUSA Gillian Grossman (*via ECF*)
AUSA Olga Zverovich (*via ECF*)
AUSA Sagar Ravi (*via ECF*)
Chukwuemeka Okparaeké (*via mail*)